Cancellation of pilots' licence test

2799. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DGCA has cancelled its pilots' licence test as the papers were leaked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Airworthiness of private planes and helicopters

2800. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising number of helicopter crashes in the country claiming many victims;

(b) whether the DGCA has investigated the causes of the crashes and if so, what are the findings of such enquiries; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the DGCA to check on the airworthiness of privately owned planes and helicopters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investigation of 13 out of 15 accidents from 2002 to 2004 have been completed. The major reasons as brought out in the reports are improper decision of the pilots, poor crew co-ordination, mechanical/ technical problems, poor maintenance, lack of experience and weather disturbances.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also

keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to strengthen aviation safety aspect. To provide better airworthiness schedule for enhancement of air safety aspect, Government is running two international training programmes for the officials of DGCA and airlines *viz.* Co-Operative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP) and European Union-India-Training Programme.

Special package for development of airports

†2801. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any policy/scheme envisaging a separate special package for the development of airports in the country;

(b) whether it includes the development of airports of Chhattisgarh, specially of Raipur, from the tourism point of view; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Delhi and Mumbai airports are being modernised and restructured through Joint Venture route with Airpots Authority of India (AAI) holding 26% share and the balance 74% share held by Joint Venture Company (JVC). In the JVC, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is capped at 49%. It is estimated on preliminary basis that the cost of modernisation of these two airports will be Rs. 8720 crores and Rs. 6400 crores respectively.

Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad are being constructed by Joint Venture Companies (JVC), wherein 13% share each is held by AAI and concerned State Governments and balance 74% participation by the selected JVC. Estimated cost of each project is Rs. 1400 crores approximately. AAI has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue. Indian Financial Consultant (ICF) and Global Technical Advisor (GTA) have been appointed to conduct techno-economic feasibility study of 10 identified airports to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.